

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 CANBER 03107 160819Z

10

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-03 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00 INR-07

NSAE-00 L-02 PRS-01 SSO-00 INRE-00 NSCE-00 /046 W

----- 050667

O 160649Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5736

INFO CINCPAC IMMEDIATE

CINCPACFLT IMMEDIATE

SECDEF WASHDC IMMEDIATE

AMCONSUL MELBOURNE

AMCONSUL SYDNEY

C O N F I D E N T I A L CANBERRA 3107

CINCPAC ALSO FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: AS, US, MARR

SUBJECT: CORAL SEA TASK GROUP VISIT

REF: (A) STATE 113447; (B) CANBERRA 3073

1. DURING INITIAL CALL ON SECRETARY OF DFA RENOUF MAY 16 DCM REFERRED IN PASSING TO PROJECTED VISIT TO PERTH AREA BY CORAL SEA TASK GROUP (REF A) AND ASKED IF RENOUF ANTICIPATED ANY PROBLEMS. RENOUF, WHO HAD PREVIOUSLY NOTED THAT RESCUE OF SS MAYAGUEZ IN GULF OF SIAM HAD GONE OFF QUICKLY AND WITHOUT SIGNIFICANT TROUBLE, INDICATED HE ANTICIPATED NO PROBLEM. WE NOTED THAT, AS THINGS STAND, VISIT HAS BEEN DELAYED AND THAT WE DO NOT RPT NOT KNOW WHEN VISIT WILL BE SCHEDULED.

2. WHILE AUSTRALIAN MEDIA REACTION HAS BEEN GENERALLY FAVORABLE IN COMMENT ON U.S. HANDLING OF SS MAYAGUEZ INCIDENT (SUMMARY OF EDITORIALS BEING SENT IN USINFO SERIES), MOST INFLUENTIAL NEWSPAPER IN PERRTH, "WEST AUSTRALIAN", COMMENTED EDITORIALY MAY 15 THAT PRESIDENT FORD HAD OVER-REACTED BY SENDING MARINES TO THAILAND, ADDING THAT BEST SOLUTION WAS TO WORK FOR RELEASE OF

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 CANBER 03107 160819Z

SHIP AND CREW THROUGH DIPLOMATIC CHANNELS. AUSTRALIAN PRESS

MAY 16 PROMINENTLY REPORTS PRESENCE OF USS CORAL SEA IN RECOVERY EFFORT. DFA OFFICIAL AND OUR CONSUL IN PERTH HAD EXPRESSED CONCERN TO US THAT INVOLVEMENT OF CORAL SEA IN RESCUE EFFORT MIGHT TRIGGER HOSTILE DEMONSTRATIONS DURING PROSPECTIVE VISIT TO PERTH. HOWEVER, SINCE OPERATIONS NOW CONCLUDED, MEDIA REACTION HAS BEEN GENERALLY FAVORABLE, AND SECRETARY OF DFA, QUERIED ON POINT, ANTICIPATED NO SPECIAL PROBLEMS, THERE IS NOW NO RPT NO REASON WHY VISIT SHOULD NOT GO AHEAD. WHEN EMBOFF DISCUSSED POSSIBLE REACTION TO CORAL SEA VISIT WITH DFA OFFICIAL ON MAY 16 (IN ACCORDANCE WITH PARA 2 OF REF A), DFA OFFICIAL SAID THAT THERE HAD NEVER BEEN ANY INDICATION ON PART OF GOA TO MAKE OFFICIAL REQUEST FOR CANCELLATION OF VISIT.

3. ACTION REQUESTED: THAT DEPT INDICATE WHEN CORAL SEA TASK FORCE GROUP WILL VISIT PERTH AREA.
GREEN

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, SHIP DETENTION, TROOP DEPLOYMENT, CORAL SEA, NUCLEAR POWERED SHIPS, MILITARY VISITS, MAYAGUEZ SS, MILITARY BASES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 16 MAY 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ellisoob
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975CANBER03107
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750172-0369
From: CANBERRA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750541/aaaablcp.tel
Line Count: 77
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 STATE 113447, 75 CANBERRA 3073
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ellisoob
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 03 JUL 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <03 JUL 2003 by WorrelSW>; APPROVED <18 NOV 2003 by ellisoob>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CORAL SEA TASK GROUP VISIT
TAGS: MARR, AS, US, CB, TH
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006